UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/652
S/24792
10 November 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 143
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 4 November 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith, annexed to the present letter, the "Declaration of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the conflict in the former Yugoslavia", adopted at the Special Ministerial Meeting of the Committee of Ministers, held at Istanbul on 10 and 11 September 1992, and chaired by His Excellency Hikmet Çetin, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, in his capacity as current Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

I would be grateful if you would circulate the text of the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 143, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mustafa AKŞİN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Declaration of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, adopted on 11 September 1992

1. The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe expresses its profound alarm over the conflict in former Yugoslavia, where every day there is violation with the utmost brutality of human rights and the Organization's other principles, causing untold human suffering.

2. It further expresses its grave concern over the growing danger that hostilities may spread to other Republics and territories, thus threatening the security, stability and democratic future of the whole region.

3. Convinced that a lasting solution to the conflict can be found only through respect for international law and the principles and commitments of the Council of Europe and of the CSCE, in particular the inviolability of frontiers and respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, the Committee of Ministers:

- condemns "ethnic cleasing", which recalls the darkest moments of Europe's history;

- declares that it will not recognize any situation created by a policy of "faits accomplis";

- insists that forced expulsion, deportation, attempts to change by force the ethnic composition of regions, as well as illegal detention, cease immediately, and calls for detainees to be released and displaced persons and forced migrants to be permitted and helped to return to their homes.

4. The Committee of Ministers expresses its full support for the Statement of Principles and the other agreements reached at the London Conference and underlines the importance of the full compliance with these commitments as well as of the decisions taken at the International Conference on Peace in ex-Yugoslavia currently under way in Geneva. The Committee of Ministers therefore:

- demands from all parties to comply strictly with all commitments arrived at or resulting from the London Conference;

- demands from all forces, and particularly those of Serbia and Montenegro, to cease their aggression against the sovereign State of Bosnia Herzegovina and to desist from the threat or use of force against that State or on its territory;

- welcomes the efforts of the Security Council to provide a mandate for adequate military protection of humanitarian aid convoys and international supervision of the heavy weapons of all the parties concerned;

- firmly condemns any attacks against UNPROFOR and international observers and demands that those responsible be sought and severely punished;

- supports all efforts to make existing United Nations' sanctions effective;

- calls upon the United Nations Secretary-General and the Security Council to take all necessary measures with a view to enforcing compliance with the decisions of the Security Council by parties that continue to obstruct a political solution to the conflict and that frustrate the safe delivery of humanitarian aid;

- instructs the Secretary-General to contact the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on Peace in ex-Yugoslavia with a view to working out what contribution the Council of Europe could make to the study of the various aspects of the creation of an international criminal Court, taking into account Assembly Recommendation 1189 (1992) and other work undertaken on the question, such as that of the United Nations International Law Commission, and to making inquiries concerning criminal acts committed by individuals with regard to the Geneva Conventions;

- declares the readiness of the Council of Europe to contribute in particular to the CSCE missions on human rights, including those which are to be sent to Kosovo, Sandjak and Vojvodina;

- reaffirms the readiness of the Council of Europe to do all in its power to help in the search for a lasting solution in conjunction with the European Community and its member States, the CSCE and the United Nations;

- instructs the Secretary-General to contact the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on Peace in ex-Yugoslavia with regard to the contribution that the Council of Europe could make in the fields of its competence to the work of the Conference, concerning, inter alia, the creation of a legal framework for the strict implementation of all human rights commitments and the elaboration of the constitutional framework necessary for a lasting solution of the problems related to the situation of nationalities and national minorities on the territory of former Yugoslavia.

5. The Committee of Ministers expresses full support for the efforts of the ICRC and UNHCR regarding humanitarian assistance and sheltering of refugees

and displaced persons in the region and calls upon member States and the organs of the Social Development Fund, in concertation with UNHCR, to mobilize the full potentialities of the Fund for the resettlement of the refugees.

6. Lastly, the Committee of Ministers intends to continue to work for the respect for the values and principles upheld by the Council of Europe throughout the territory of former Yugoslavia, as well as the restoration of confidence between the populations affected by this conflict.